

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

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R 011250Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5732

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, BR

SUBJECT: RABASA'S REPORTED UNHAPPINESS WITH ECHEVERRIA'S
FOREIGN POLICY

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME ON JULY 30 IN WHICH I COMMENTED THAT I THOUGHT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA HAD APPEARED RATHER DEPRESSED DURING THE RECENT ECHEVERRIA VISIT, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA SAID THAT INDEED HE HAD BEEN. SILVEIRA EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD HAD A LONG TALK WITH RABASA IN WHICH THE LATTER HAD COMPLAINED THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY A MEXICAN PRESIDENT HAD TO ASSUME A LEFTIST POSTURE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NOR WHY HE (RABASA) SHOULD HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SILVEIRA. SILVEIRA ADDED THAT RABASA WAS THINKING VERY SERIOUSLY ABOUT RESIGNING BECAUSE OF HIS UNCOMFORTABLENESS WITH THE SITUATION. SILVEIRA SAID THAT HE HAD URGED RABASA TO STICK IT OUT.

2. I LIMITED MYSELF TO SAYING THAT (A) I HAD BEEN TOLD BY AN OBSERVER OF THE MEXICAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SCENE WHOM I CONSIDERED TO BE REASONABLY RELIABLE THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD A FOREIGN POLICY "BRAIN TRUST" AROUND HIM COMPOSED OF RELATIVELY YOUNG LEFTIST NATIONALISTS, WHO WERE GIVING RABASA A LOT OF TROUBLE; AND (B) I HAD LONG HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT RABASA'S TENURE WAS PRECARIOUS.) (NOTE: THE SOURCE OF (A) WAS HENRY RAYMONT, THE JOURNALIST, WHO ACCOMPANIED ECHEVERRIA ON HIS TOUR. RAYMONT ALSO
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CLAIMED THAT THE "BRAIN TRUST" (WHOM HE SAID HE WOULD

NOT CALL MARXISTS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT THAT WELL DISCIPLINED) HAD URGED ECHEVERRIA NOT TO VISIT BRAZIL BECAUSE IT WOULD TARNISH HIS IMAGE, A RECOMMENDATION ECHEVERRIA TURNED DOWN BECAUSE OF BRAZIL'S OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE.)

3. I SHOULD CAUTION THAT SILVEIRA SOMETIMES EMBROIDERS AND DRAMATIZES THE FACTS.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO MEXICO CITY.
CRIMMINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED MEXICO CITY.

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